

John East

THE STAR OF THE NORTH.

Truth and Right—God's Country.

[Two Dollars per Annum.]

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Original Poetry.
For the "Star of the North."
OTHER DAYS.
Others may love to gain renown
And court the world's vain praise;
My greatest bliss I find in this—
To muse of other days.
Though many round with sweetest sound
The songs of joy may raise;
Yet once again give me the strain
I heard in other days.
The friends "more new" are not more true,
I care not for their praise—
For dearer far to me are those
I loved in other days.
And though the lip the smile has worn
In fashion's giddy maze—
Thoughts unexpressed have filled the breast
With sighs for other days.
Buckhorn, Col. Co., Pa. [LILLIAN.]

INSECT POWERS.
The muscular power of insects is immense. We once were surprised by a feat performed by a common beetle in the United States. We had put the insect, for want of any box at hand, beneath a quart bottle full of milk upon a table, the hollow of the bottom allowing him room to stand upright. Presently, to our surprise, the beetle began slowly to move, and glide along the smooth table, propelled by the muscular power of the imprisoned insect, and continued for some time, to preambulate the surface, to the astonishment of all who witnessed it. The weight of the bottle and its contents could not have been less than three pounds and a half, while that of the beetle was but half an ounce, so that it readily moved a weight eighty-one and a half times exceeding its own. A better notion than figures can convey will be obtained of this feat by supposing a lad of fifteen to be imprisoned under the great bell at St. Paul's, which weighs 12,000 pounds, and to move it to and fro upon a smooth pavement by pushing within. Mr. Newport has given other instances of insect power equally remarkable. Having once fastened a small kind of *Carabus*, a elegantly formed ground beetle, weighing three and a half grains, by a silk thread, to a piece of paper, he laid a weight on the latter. At a distance of ten inches from his load, the insect was able to drag after it, upon an inclined plane of 25 degrees, nearly eighty-five grains; but when placed on a plane of five degrees inclination, it drew after it one pound and twenty-five grains, exclusive of the friction to be overcome in moving its load, as though a man were to drag up a hill of similar inclination a wagon weighing two tons and a half, having first taken the wheels off. According to the same excellent authority, the wing beetle—*Lucanus cervinus*—has been known to gnaw a hole an inch in diameter through the side of an iron canister in which it was confined, and on which the marks of its jaws were distinctly visible, as proved by Stephens, who exhibited the canister at one of the meetings of the Entomological Society.

Let us look at the powers of insects exercised in the act of flying. The house fly—*Musca domestica*—that wheel and fly beneath the ceiling for hours together, ordinarily move at the rate of about five feet per second; but if excited to speed they can dart along through thirty-five feet in the same brief space of time. Now in this period, as Kirby and Spence observe, a race horse could clear only ninety feet, which is at the rate of more than a mile a minute. Our little fly, in her swiftest flight, will go more than one third of a mile. Now compare the immense differences of the size of the two animals—ten millions of the fly would hardly counterpoise one racer—and how wonderful will the velocity of this minute creature appear! Did the fly equal the race horse in size and retain its powers in the ratio of its magnitude, it would traverse the globe with the rapidity of lightning. Some of the flies that haunt our gardens "shoot" along so rapidly that the eye cannot follow them in flight.

Not are these tiny creatures less masters of the art of running and leaping. The *Uta* mentions a fly so minute as almost to be invisible, which ran nearly six inches in a second, and in that space was calculated to have made one thousand and eighty steps! This, according to the calculation of Kirby and Spence, is as if a man whose steps measured only two feet, should run at the incredible rate of twenty miles in a minute. Every one has had occasion to observe, not always without an emotion of anger, the leaping powers of the flea—*Pulex irritans*. A bound of two hundred times its own length is a common feat, as if a man should jump twelve hundred feet, or a quarter of a mile. What a ply that insect were not allowed to be competitors in the athletic games of old—*Oratio*.

An affected singer, at a theatre, was told by a wag in the gallery, who came out from behind his nose and sang like other people.

TEN CENT CALUMNY.

BUCHANAN'S SPEECH.

That no man who desires information may be deceived, we publish below an extract from the able and masterly argument of James Buchanan upon the Independent Treasury bill, delivered in the United States Senate in 1840. Any one who reads the speech entire, or the following extract, and then repeats the stale slander that Mr. Buchanan was or is the enemy of the laboring classes, or that he would advocate any policy injurious to their interests, has unblushing effrontery and brazen-hardihood enough for a regiment of ordinarily unscrupulous people.

"On Friday last, when I very unexpectedly addressed the Senate, I stated a principle of political economy which I now shall read from the book. It is this: that if you double the amount of the necessary circulating medium in any country, you thereby double the nominal price of every article. If, when the circulating medium is fifty millions, an article should cost one dollar, it would cost two if, without any increase of the uses of a circulating medium, the quantity should be increased to one hundred millions. The same effect would be produced, whether the circulating medium were specie, or convertible bank paper mingled with specie. It is the increased quantity of the medium, not its character, which produces this effect. Of course I leave out of view irredeemable bank paper.

"I do not pretend that, on questions of political economy, you can attain mathematical certainty. All you can accomplish is to approach it as near as possible. The principle which I have stated is sufficiently near the truth to answer my present purpose. From this principle, I drew an inference that the extravagant amount of our circulating medium, consisting, in a great degree, of the notes thrown out upon the community by eight hundred banks, was injurious to our domestic manufactures. In other words, that extravagant banking and domestic manufactures are directly hostile to each other.

"I did not understand that the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. Davis] consisted the general proposition that an increase in the currency of any country, without an increase of the uses of a circulating medium, would, in the same proportion, enhance the price of all the productions of that country whose value was not regulated by a foreign demand. He could not have contested this principle. If he had, all history and all experience would have been arrayed against him.

"The discovery of the mines of South America, and the consequent vast increase of the precious metals put into circulation in the form of money, have greatly enhanced the nominal prices of all property throughout the world. Indeed it is now a matter of curious amusement, to contrast the low prices of all articles three centuries ago, with their present greatly advanced rates. The Bank of England recognizes, and constantly acts upon this principle, though often without success. When prices become so high, in consequence of redundancy of paper currency and bank credits, that it is more profitable to export the precious metals from the kingdom than its manufactures, this bank constantly diminishes its loans, raises the rate of interest, and reduces its circulation, with the avowed object of reducing prices to such a standard as will render it more profitable to export merchandise than bullion. It is in this manner that the Bank seeks to regulate the foreign exchanges.

"But why need we resort to foreign nations for illustrations of truth in this position when it has been brought home to the actual knowledge of every man within this country? Have we not all learned by bitter experience, that when our periodical expansions commence, the price of all property begins to rise? It goes on increasing with the increasing expansion, until the bubble bursts; and then bank accommodations and bank issues are contracted, the amount of the currency is reduced, and prices fall to their former level. This is the history of our own country, and we all know it. A certain amount of currency is necessary to represent the entire exchangeable property of the country; and if this amount should be greatly increased, without a corresponding increase in the exchangeable productions of the country, the only consequence would be a great enhancement in nominal prices. I say nominal; because this increased price will not enable the man who receives it to purchase more real property or more of the necessities and luxuries of life than he could have done before.

"Let me now recur to the proposition, with which I commenced; and I repeat that I do not pretend to mathematical accuracy in the illustration which I shall present. The United States carry on a trade with Germany and France; the former a hard-money country, and the latter approaching it so nearly as to have no bank notes in circulation, under the denomination of five hundred francs or nearly one hundred dollars. On the contrary, the United States is emphatically a paper-money country, having eight hundred banks of issue; all of them emitting notes of a denomination as low as five dollars, and most of them one, two, and three-dollar notes. For every dollar of gold and silver in the vaults of these banks, they issue three, four, five, and some of them as high as ten, and even fifteen dollars of paper. This produces a vast and ever changing expansion of the currency; and a consequent increase of the prices of all articles, the value of which is not regulated by the foreign demand, above the prices of similar articles in Germany and France. At particular stages of our expansion, we might with justice apply the prin-

ciple which I have stated to our trade to these countries, and assert that from the great redundancy of our currency, articles are manufactured in France and Germany for one half of their actual cost in this country. Let me present an example. In Germany, where the currency is purely metallic, and the cost of everything is reduced to a hard-money standard, a piece of broadcloth can be manufactured for fifty dollars; the manufacturer of which, in our country, from the expansion of our paper currency, would cost one hundred dollars. What is the consequence? The foreign French or German Manufacturer Imports his cloth into our country and sells it for one hundred dollars. Does not every person perceive that the redundancy of our currency is equal to a premium of one hundred per cent. in favor of the foreign manufacturer? No tariff of protection, unless it amounted to prohibition, could counteract this advantage in favor of foreign manufactures. I would to Heaven that I could rouse the attention of every manufacturer of the nation to this important subject.

"The foreign manufacturer will not receive our bank notes in payment. He will take nothing home except gold and silver, or bills of exchange, which are equivalent. He does not expend this money here, where he would be compelled to support his family, and purchase his labor and materials at the same rate of prices which he receives for his manufactures. On the contrary, he goes home, purchases his labor, his wool, and all other articles which enter into his manufacturing, at half their cost in this country; and again returns to inundate us with foreign woolsens, and to ruin our domestic manufactures. I might cite many other examples; but this, I trust, will be sufficient to draw public attention to the subject. This depreciation of our currency is, therefore, equivalent to a direct protection granted to the foreign over the domestic manufacturer. It is impossible that our manufacturer should be able to sustain such an unequal competition.

"Sir, I solemnly believe that if we could but reduce this inflated paper bubble to anything like reasonable dimensions, New England would become the most prosperous manufacturing country that the sun ever shone upon. Why cannot we manufacture goods, and especially cotton goods, which will go into successful competition with British manufactures in foreign markets? Have we not the necessary capital? Have we not the industry? Have we not the machinery? And above all, are not our skill, energy, and enterprise, proverbial throughout the world? Land is also cheaper here than in any other country on the face of the earth. We possess every advantage which Providence can bestow upon us for the manufacture of cotton; but they are all counteracted by the folly of man. The raw material costs us less than it does the English, because this is an article, the price of which depends upon foreign markets and is not regulated by our own inflated currency. We therefore, save the freight of the cotton across the Atlantic, and that of the manufactured article on its return here. What is the reason that, with all these advantages, and with the prospective duties, which our own laws afford to the domestic manufacture of cotton, we cannot obtain exclusive possession of the markets of the world? It is simply because we manufacture at the nominal prices of our own inflated currency, and are compelled to sell at the real prices of other nations. Reduce our nominal to the real standard of prices throughout the world, and you cover our country with blessings and beneficence. I wish to Heaven I could speak in a voice loud enough to be heard throughout New England; because if the attention of the manufacturers could once be directed to the subject, their own intelligence and native sagacity would teach them how injuriously they are affected by our bloated banking and credit system, and would enable them to apply the proper corrective.

"What is the reason that our manufacturers have been able to sustain any sort of competition, even in the home market, with those of British origin? It is because England herself is, to a great extent, a paper-money country, though, in this respect, not to be compared with our own. From this very cause prices in England are much higher than they are upon the continent. The expense of living is there double what it costs in France. Hence, all the English who desire to nurse their fortunes by living cheaply emigrate from their own country to France, or some other portion of the continent. The comparative low prices of France and Germany have afforded such a stimulus to their manufacturers, that they are now rapidly extending themselves, and would obtain possession, in no small degree, even of the English home market, if it were not for their protecting duties. Whilst British manufactures are now languishing, those of the continent are springing into a healthy and vigorous existence. It was but the other day that I saw an extract from an English paper which stated that whilst the cutlery manufactured in Germany was equal in quality with the English, it was so reduced in price that the latter would have to abandon the manufacture altogether.

"But the Senator from Kentucky leaves no stone unturned. He says that the friends of the Independent Treasury desire to demolish an exclusive metallic currency, as the medium of all dealings throughout the Union; and also, to reduce the wage of the poor man's labor so that the rich employer may be able to sell his manufactures at a lower price. Now, sir, I deny the correctness of

both these propositions; and, in the first place, I, for one, am not in favor of establishing an exclusive metallic currency for the people of this country. I desire to see the banks greatly reduced in number; and would, if I could, confine their accommodations to such loans or discounts, for limited periods, to the commercial manufacturing, and trading classes of the community as the ordinary course of their business might render necessary. I never wish to see farmers and mechanics and professional men tempted, by the facility of obtaining bank loans for long periods to abandon their own proper and useful avocations, and rush into wild and extravagant speculation. I would, if I could, radically reform the present banking system, so as to confine it within such limits as to prevent future suspensions of specie payments; and without exception, I would instantly deprive each and every bank of its charter which should again suspend. Establish these or similar reforms, and give us a real specie basis for our paper circulation, by increasing the denomination of bank notes first to ten, and afterwards to twenty dollars, and I shall then be the friend, not the enemy of the banks. I know that the existence of banks and the circulation of bank paper are so identified with the habits of our people, that they cannot be abolished, even if this were desirable. To reform, and not destroy, is my motto. To confine them to their appropriate business, and prevent them from ministering to the spirit of wild and reckless speculation, by extravagant loans and issues, is all which ought to be desired. But this I shall say. If experience should prove it to be impossible to enjoy the facilities which well regulated banks would afford, without, at the same time, continuing to suffer the evils which the wild excesses of the present banks have hitherto entailed upon the country, then I should consider it the lesser evil to abolish them altogether. If the State Legislatures shall now do their duty, I do not believe that it will ever become necessary to decide upon such an alternative.

"We are also charged by the Senator from Kentucky with a desire to reduce the wages of the poor man's labor. We have often been termed agrarians on our side of the House. It is something new under the sun, to hear the Senator and his friends attribute to us a desire to elevate the wealthy manufacturer, at the expense of the laboring man and the mechanic. From my soul, I respect the laboring man. Labor is a foundation of the wealth of every country; and the free laborers of the North deserve respect, both for their probity and their intelligence. Heaven forbid that I should do them wrong! Of all the countries on the earth, we ought to have the most consideration for the laboring man. From the very nature of our institutions, the wheel of fortune is constantly revolving and producing such mutations in property, that the wealthy man of to-day may become the poor laborer of to-morrow. Truly, wealth often takes to itself wings and flies away. A large fortune rarely lasts beyond the third generation, even if it endures so long. We must all know instances of individuals obliged to labor for their daily bread, whose grandfathers were men of fortune. The regular process of society would almost seem to consist of the efforts of one class to dissipate the fortunes which they have inherited, whilst another class, by their industry and economy, are regularly rising to wealth. We have all, therefore, a common interest, as it is our common duty, to protect the rights of the laboring man; and if I believed for a moment that this bill would prove injurious to him, it should meet my unqualified opposition.

"Although this bill will not have as great an influence as I could desire, yet, as far as it goes, it will benefit the laboring man as much, and probably more than any other class of society. What is it he ought most to desire? Constant employment, regular wages, and uniform reasonable prices for the necessities and comforts of life which he requires. Now, sir, what has been his condition under our system of expansions and contractions? He has suffered more than any other class of society. The rate of his wages is fixed and known; and they are the last to rise with the increasing expansion and the first to fall when the corresponding revolution occurs. He still continues to receive his dollar per day, whilst the price of every article which he consumes, is rapidly rising. He is at length made to feel that, although he nominally earns as much, or even more than he did formerly, yet, from the increased price of all the necessities of life, he cannot support his family. Hence the strikes for higher wages, and the uneasy and excited feelings which have at different periods, existed among the laboring classes. But the expansion at length reaches the exploding point, and what does the laboring man now suffer? He is for a season thrown out of employment altogether. Our manufacturers are suspended; our public works are stopped; our private enterprises of different kinds are abandoned; and, whilst others are able to weather the storm, he can scarcely procure the means of bare subsistence.

"Again, sir, who do you suppose held the greater part of the worthless paper of the one hundred and sixty-five broken banks to which I have referred? Certainly it was not the keen and wary speculator, who snuffs danger from afar. If you were to make the search, you would find more broken bank notes in the cottages of the laboring poor anywhere else. And these miserable shipplasters, where are they? After the revulsion of 1837, laborers were glad to obtain employment on any terms; and they often received it upon the express condition that they should accept this worthless trash in

payment. Sir, an entire suppression of all bank notes of a lower denomination than the value of one week's wages of the laboring man is absolutely necessary for his protection. He ought always to receive his wages in gold and silver. Of all men on earth, the laborer is most interested in having a sound and stable currency.

"All other circumstances being equal, I agree with the Senator from Kentucky that that country is most prosperous where labor commands the highest wages. I do not, however, mean by the terms 'highest wages,' the greatest nominal amount. During the Revolutionary war, one day's work commanded a hundred dollars of continental paper; but this would have scarcely purchased a breakfast. The more proper expression would be, to say that that country is most prosperous where labor commands the greatest reward; where one day's labor will purchase the greatest nominal amount of a depreciated currency, but most of the necessities and comforts of life. If, therefore, you should, in some degree, reduce the nominal price paid for labor, by reducing the amount of your bank issues within reasonable and safe limits, and establishing a metallic basis for your paper circulation, would this injure the laborer? Certainly not; because the price of all the necessities and comforts of life are reduced in the same proportion, and he will be able to purchase more of them for one dollar in a sound state of the currency, than he could have done, in the days of extravagant expansion, for a dollar and a quarter. So far from injuring, it will greatly benefit the laboring man. It will insure to him constant employment and regular wages, paid in a sound currency, which, of all things, he ought most to desire; and it will save him from being involved in ruin by a recurrence of those periodical expansions and contractions of the currency, which have hitherto convulsed the country.

"This sound state of the currency will have another most happy effect upon the laboring man. He will receive his wages in gold and silver; and this will induce him to lay up, for future use, such a portion of them as he can spare, after satisfying his immediate wants. This he will not do at present, because he knows not whether the trash which he is now compelled to receive as a week or a month's hire, will continue to be of any value a week or a month hence. A knowledge of this fact tends to banish economy from his dwelling, and induces him to expend all his wages as rapidly as possible, lest they may become worthless on his hands.

"Sir, the laboring classes understand this subject perfectly. It is the hard hand and first-aid case of the country on whom we rely in the day of danger, who are the most friendly to the passage of this bill. It is they who are the most ardently in favor of infusing into the currency of the country a very large amount of the precious metals.

"The Senator has advanced another position in which I am sorry that I cannot agree with him. It is this: that a permanent high rate of interest is indicative of the prosperity of any country. Now, sir, a permanent high rate of interest is conclusive evidence of a scarcity of capital, and is indicative of anything but prosperity. I think, therefore, it would puzzle him with all his ingenuity, to establish his proposition. To render a country truly prosperous, capital and labor must be so combined as each to receive a fair reward. In England, when the rate of interest was very high, the country was not at all in a flourishing condition; but as capital gradually accumulated, and the rate of interest consequently sunk, she became more and more prosperous, though she did not reach her highest elevation until money yielded considerable less than five per cent. But this subject is so little relevant to the question under discussion, that it is scarcely necessary to pursue it. If it were, it would be easy to show that a high rate of interest, generally, if not universally, enters into direct conflict with the wages of labor, which the Senator is so anxious to maintain. Suppose, for example, that it required a capital of \$20,000 to put out and preserve an iron manufactory in successful operation. In one country the interest on this sum at ten per cent. would amount to \$2,000; while in another it could be procured at four per cent., or \$800. The difference would be \$1,200; and unless this amount can be saved either by a reduction in the wages of labor, or in some other manner, the manufacturer who pays the higher rate of interest cannot endure the competition. A higher rate of interest almost always presses upon the wages of labor.

"If the gentleman's theory be correct, Wall street must be a perfect paradise of prosperity. There, the rate of interest for a long time has been permanently high, varying between two and four per cent. a month, or between twenty-four and forty-eight per cent. per annum. Post notes of the Bank of the United States have been discounted freely at two per cent. per month. With these facts before him, Mr. Jeffrey would not now declare, as the Senator informed us he formerly did, 'that this country was the heaven of the poor man, and the hell of the rich.' He might probably reverse the position, though it would be equally extravagant one way as the other. A country in which a rich man can realize from 24 to 48 per cent. for the money would certainly be anything but a place of torment for him. But what is the condition of a poor man in such a country? When capital commands such an extravagant interest to liquidate commercial debts, it will no longer be used in the employment of labor; and hence poor men must necessarily be thrown out of employment. Such a condition is anything but a heaven for them."

LETTER FROM THE HON. JAMES B. CLAY.

From the Daily Terrific Haute Journal.

[The following letter from the Hon. Jas. B. Clay, son of the immortal Henry Clay, written to a gentleman living in the vicinity of this place, has been kindly furnished us for publication. It will for ever put to rest, in the minds of candid men, the charge of "bargain and corruption" now urged against Mr. Buchanan. It commends itself to every National man and Old Line Whig in the country.]

ASHLAND, near Lexington, July 14, '56.
DEAR SIR:—I have received your letter of the 7th inst. I am gratified to learn that you are still an Old Line Whig, who has not given in to the modern heresies which have come so near sweeping our noble party from the face of the earth. We are too few in numbers to present separate candidates to the people for their suffrages for the highest office in their gift, but we are not too few to adhere faithfully to the principles of our fathers, and believing them to be true, and that truth must eventually prevail, to hope for better times, when the country may have recovered from the madness which appears to have seized upon it.

Like myself and thousands of our fellow citizens, you are casting about to endeavor to ascertain what may be the course your duty to your country ought to impel you to pursue in the contest which is approaching between the candidates of parties, to none of which you yourself belong. You do me the honor to ask my advice and my opinion. I give my opinion cheerfully and freely.

I regard the stability of the Union as in greater peril than it ever has been since the foundation of the government. In 1820 the wisest and best men thought it in danger from the slavery question. The so-called Missouri Compromise was passed for the purpose and with the hope that it would put that question finally at rest. In 1850 it was plainly seen that the hope was futile and the purpose without avail. The whole country was distracted and torn in pieces, and the boldest and wisest Statesman trembled for the Union. By the efforts of the best men of all parties the Compromise of 1850 was effected, and men once again breathed freely in the feeling that the country was safe. How vain, how futile their hopes! Scarcely are some of the noblest actors in the scenes of 1850 cold in their graves when again the question of Slavery—in other words of Union or Dissolution—is presented to us, and in a form more tangible and direct than it ever before was. The anti-Slavery party of the North determined to accomplish its purposes, has presented a purely sectional candidate, North against South, in the person of Col. Fremont for the Presidency. It is my opinion that there is now no other issue than this—North against South—Union or Dissolution of the Union;—upon this issue what are we to do as lovers of our country, who know no North, no South, no East nor West.

The Whig party, to which alone of present parties I can belong, has not thought it prudent and advisable to present candidates to the country. We have offered for our suffrages opposing Mr. Fremont two candidates, Mr. Fillmore and Mr. Buchanan, both of whom I believe to be, upon the Slavery question, as true to the Union as I am myself. Each of them is the representative of principles to which I am opposed. So far as regards my own convictions and my own principles neither Mr. Fillmore or Mr. Buchanan is my choice; but I must choose between them, or suffer, so far as I am concerned, the Black Republican party to destroy the glorious Union under which I was born and live. It is but a choice of evils, but both far less evils than would be the election of Fremont. In making the choice I shall be governed, not by personal attachment or personal repugnance to one or the other. I will vote for that one who I believe will be most likely to defeat Fremont and save the Union. It is my earnest belief that Mr. BUCHANAN, has a better chance of success than Mr. Fillmore, and it is my opinion that it is the duty of every man, and of every Old Line Whig, who pretends to love his country to VOTE FOR HIM as the surest means of saving the Union.

It has been repeatedly urged to men that Mr. Buchanan was the political enemy and the villain of my father. Were everything that has been said true, I should reply, I loved my father better than I loved any mortal man, but I love my Country more. But I do not believe the charge against Mr. Buchanan to be true. I know that for more than twenty-five years, politically, he was the opponent of my father. I do not for an instant believe that he had any complicity with Gen. Jackson, and others in the charge of bargain and corruption made against my father in 1825. If I believed this I must at the same time believe my own father to have been false; for publicly and privately he exonerated Mr. Buchanan from the charge; witness his private letter, never intended for publication, to his old friend Judge Brook, page 169 of Coltin's private correspondence of Henry Clay, in which he says "he could not desire a stronger statement from Mr. Buchanan;" and his public speech at Washington on his retirement from the office of Secretary of State, in which he uses the following language:—"That citizen (General Jackson) has done me great injustice. It was inflicted, as I must ever believe, for the double purpose of gratifying private resentment, and promoting personal ambition. When, during the late canvass, he came forward in the public prints under his proper name, with his

charge against me, and summoned before the public tribunal, his friend and only witness (Mr. Buchanan) to establish it; the anxious attention of the whole American people was directed to the testimony which that witness might render. He promptly obeyed the call, and testified to what he knew. He could say nothing, and he said nothing which cast the slightest shade upon my honor or integrity. What he did say was the reverse of any implication of me."

These are enough for me; other men may pretend that they are greater friends of my father than I am myself; they have done so, and they will for miserable party purposes do so again. Suffice it that he was my father, my partner, and my best friend in life. I never forgave, and never will forgive, real injuries and real treachery to him; and it is my firm belief that if I were to attempt a crusade against all those who were guilty of wrong and of injury to him, I should find my hands most abundantly occupied with those whose mouths are now most full of his name. I make no war upon them, and if I could only see them willing to abandon their wretched hunt after office, at the expense of all principles, and to strike one blow for that Union my father so loved that he gave his life for it, much of my rancor towards them would be assuaged.

I have thus, my dear sir, with perfect freedom and candor, given you my views and opinions. You are free to use them as you please, publicly or privately.
I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
JAMES B. CLAY.

PICKLES—A correspondent alludes to the fact that the season of the year has arrived when almost every housewife is busily employed in replenishing her annual store of pickles, and desires our opinion on their value in a dietetic point of view.

Certainly no one considers pickles, as we usually meet with them on our tables, as articles of food—they can be viewed in no other light than as excitors of the appetite, or as a means of imparting an additional flavor to the more substantial viands of which the meal is composed.

The articles generally selected for pickling, are unripe vegetable substances, and those of the more indigestible class; as for instance, immature cucumbers, or melons, peppers and the like. Whatever principle in any degree soluble by the stomach these may contain, previous to their conversion into pickles, they are completely destroyed by the latter process; simply when served at table, a pickle consists hence of an indigestible sponge saturated with vinegar.

A moderate quantity of vinegar, it is true, is by no means an unwholesome addition to many articles of food. When made use of, however, in the form of pickles, its wholesomeness is materially destroyed, as well by the indigestible mass with which it is combined as by the spices by which it is highly flavored. These, besides disordering the stomach of themselves, are very apt to produce a factitious appetite, or to prolong the desire for food after the natural appetite has been satisfied—in either case endangering the loading of the stomach with a quantity of ailment far beyond its powers of digestion, or the actual wants of the system.—*Med. Reformer.*

Discoveries of the Age.
Some of the most wonderful results of human intellect have been witnessed in the last fifty years. It is remarkable how the mind of the world had run into scientific investigation, and what achievements it has effected in that short period.
Fulton launched the first steamboat in 1807, now there are 2,000 steamboats traveling the waters of America only.
In 1825 the first railroad was put in operation in Massachusetts.
In 1800 there was not a single railroad in the world. In the United States alone there are now 8,797 miles of road costing \$285,000,000 to build, and about 22,000 miles of railroad in America.
The electric telegraph had its beginning in 1845.
The electric magnet was discovered in 1812, and electrotyping is a still later invention.
Hoe's printing press, capable of printing 10,000 copies an hour, is a very recent discovery.
Gas light was unknown in 1800; how every city and town of any pretence is lighted with gas, and we have the announcement of a still greater discovery by which light, heat, and motive power, may all be produced from water, with scarcely any cost.
Daguerre communicated to the world his beautiful invention in 1839.
Gun cotton and chloroform are discoveries but a few years old.
Astronomy has added a number of new planets to their solar system.

What will the next half century accomplish? We may look for still greater discoveries, for the intellect of man is awake exploring every name of knowledge, and searching for useful information in every department of art and industry.

He Found Out.—Gov. Letcher, in a speech at a barbecue in Kentucky, asked: "What is John C. Breckinridge?" and to his surprise an old Democrat replied that he was "the stripping Democrat who beat Letcher for Congress in the strongest Whig district in the State." It is hardly necessary to add that the Gov. should not put the question again.